

100 Words S - Z

san•guine (säng'gwīn) *adj.* **1a.** Of the color of blood; red. **b.** Of a healthy reddish color; ruddy: *a sanguine complexion*. **2.** Archaic **a.** In medieval physiology, having blood as the dominant humor. **b.** Having the temperament and ruddy complexion once thought to be characteristic of this humor; passionate. **3.** Cheerfully confident; optimistic. [ME < OFr. *sanguin* < Lat. *sanguineus* < *sanguis*, *sanguin-*, blood.] —**san'guine•ly** *adv.* —**san'guine•ness**, **san•guin'i•ty** *n.*

so•lil•o•quy (sə-lil'ə-kwē) *n., pl. -quies* **1a.** A dramatic or literary form of discourse in which a character reveals his or her thoughts when alone or unaware of the presence of other characters. **b.** A specific speech or piece of writing in this form of discourse. **2.** The act of speaking to oneself. [LLat. *sōliloquium*: Lat. *solus*, alone; see **s(w)e-** in App. + Lat. *loqui*, to speak.] —**so•lil'o•quist** (-kwist), **so•lil'o•quiz'er** (-kwī'zər) *n.* —**so•lil'o•quize'** (-kwīz') *v.*

sub•ju•gate (süb'jə-gāt') *tr.v.* **-gat•ed, -gat•ing, -gates** **1.** To bring under control; conquer. See Syns at **defeat**. **2.** To make subservient; enslave. [ME *subjugaten* < Lat. *subiugāre*, *subiugāt-*: *sub-*, sub- + *iugum*, yoke; see **yeug-** in App.] —**sub'ju•ga'tion** *n.* —**sub'ju•ga'tor** *n.*

suf•fra•gist (süf'rə-jist) *n.* An advocate of the extension of political voting rights, esp. to women. —**suf'fra•gism** *n.*

su•per•cil•i•ous (sōō'pər-sil'ē-əs) *adj.* Feeling or showing haughty disdain. See Syns at **proud**. [Lat. *superciliōsus* < *supercilium*, eyebrow, pride: *super-*, super- + *cilium*, lower eyelid; see **kel-** in App.] —**su'per•cil'i•ous•ly** *adv.* —**su'per•cil'i•ous•ness** *n.*

tau•tol•o•gy (tô-töl'ə-jē) *n., pl. -gies* **1a.** Needless repetition of the same sense in different words; redundancy. **b.** An instance of such repetition. **2.** *Logic* An empty statement composed of simpler statements in a fashion that makes it logically true whether the simpler statements are factually true or false; for example, *Either we'll go or we'll stay*. [LLat. *tautologia* < Gk. *tautologiā* < *tautologos*, redundant: *tauto-*, *tauto-* + *logos*, saying; see **-LOGY**.] —**tau'to•log'i•cal** (tôt'l-ōj'i-kəl), **tau'to•log'ic** (-ik) *adj.* —**tau'to•log'i•cal•ly** *adv.*

tax•on•o•my (tāk-sŏn'ə-mē) *n., pl. -mies* **1.** The classification of organisms in an ordered system that indicates natural relationships. **2.** The science, laws, or principles of classification; systematics. **3.** Division into ordered groups or categories. [Fr. *taxonomie*: Gk. *taxis*, arrangement; see **TAXIS** + *-nomie*, method (< Gk. *-nomiā*; see **-NOMY**).] —**tax•on'o•mist** *n.*

tec•ton•ic (tĕk-tŏn'ik) *adj.* **1.** *Geology* Relating to, causing, or resulting from structural deformation of the earth's crust. **2a.** Relating to construction or building. **b.** Architectural. [LLat. *tectonicus* < Gk. *tektonikos* < *tektōn*, builder.] —**tec•ton'i•cal•ly** *adv.*

tem•pes•tu•ous (tēm-pēs'chōō-əs) *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or resembling a tempest. **2.** Tumultuous; stormy: *a tempestuous relationship*. [ME < LLat. *tempestuosus* < *tempestūs*, tempest, var. of *tempestās*. See **TEMPEST**.] —**tem•pes•tu•ous•ly** *adv.*

ther•mo•dy•nam•ics (thūr'mō-dī-nām'iks) *n.* **1.** (*used with a sing. verb*) The branch of physics that deals with the relationships and conversions between heat and other forms of energy. **2.** (*used with a pl. verb*) Thermodynamic phenomena and processes.

to•tal•i•tar•i•an (tō-tāl'i-târ'ē-ən) *adj.* Of, being, or imposing a form of government in which the political authority exercises absolute and centralized control over all aspects of life. ♦ *n.* A practitioner or supporter of such a government. [TOTAL + (AUTHOR)ITARIAN.] —**to•tal'i•tar'i•an•ism** *n.*

unc•tu•ous (ŭngk'chōō-əs) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by affected, exaggerated, or insincere earnestness. **2.** Having the quality or characteristics of oil or ointment; slippery. **3.** Containing or composed of oil or fat. **4.** Abundant in organic materials; soft and rich: *unctuous soil*. [ME < OFr. *unctueus* < Med.Lat. *ūctuosus* < Lat. *unctum*, ointment < neut. p. part. of *ungere*, to anoint.] —**unc'tu•ous•ly** *adv.* —**unc'tu•ous•ness**, **unc'tu•os'i•ty** (-ōs'i-tē) *n.*

u•surp (yōō-sûrp', -zûrp') *v.* **-surped, -surp•ing, -surps** —*tr.* **1.** To seize and hold (the power or rights of another, for example) by force and without legal authority. **2.** To take over or occupy without right: *usurp land*. —*intr.* To seize another's place, authority, or possession wrongfully. [ME *usurpen* < OFr. *usurper* < Lat. *ūsūrpāre*, to take into use, usurp. See **reup-** in App.] —**u•surp'er** *n.* —**u•surp'ing•ly** *adv.*

vac•u•ous (vāk'yōō-əs) *adj.* **1.** Devoid of matter; empty. **2a.** Lacking intelligence; stupid. **b.** Devoid of substance or meaning; inane: *a vacuous comment*. **c.** Devoid of expression; vacant. **3.** Lacking serious purpose or occupation; idle. [< Lat. *vacuus*, empty. See **VACUUM**.] —**vac'u•ous•ly** *adv.* —**vac'u•ous•ness** *n.*

ve•he•ment (vē'ə-mənt) *adj.* **1.** Forceful or intense in expression, emotion, or conviction; fervid. **2.** Vigorous or energetic; strong: *a vehement storm*. [ME < OFr. < Lat. *vehemens*, *vehement-*, perh. < *vehere*, to carry. See **wegh-** in App.] —**ve'he•mence**, **ve'he•men•cy** *n.* —**ve'he•ment•ly** *adv.*

vor•tex (vôr'tĕks') *n., pl. -tex•es or -ti•ces* (-tī-sēz') **1.** A spiral motion of fluid within a limited area, esp. a whirling mass of water or air that sucks everything near it toward its center. **2.** A place or situation regarded as drawing into its center all that surrounds it. [Lat. *vortex*, *vortic-*, var. of *vertex* < *vertere*, to turn. See **wer-** in App.]

win•now (wīn'o) *v.* **-nowed, -now•ing, -nows** —*tr.* **1a.** To separate the chaff from (grain) by means of a current of air. **b.** To rid of undesirable parts. **2.** To blow (chaff) off or away. **3.** To blow away; scatter. **4.** To blow on; fan: *A breeze winnowed the grass*. **5.** To examine closely in order to separate the good from the bad; sift. **6a.** To separate or get rid of (an undesirable part); eliminate: *winnowing out errors*. **b.** To sort or select (a desirable part); extract. —*intr.* **1.** To separate grain from chaff. **2.** To separate the good from the bad. ♦ *n.* **1.** A device for winnowing grain. **2.** An act of winnowing. [ME *winnewen*, alteration of *windwen* < OE *windwian* < *wind*, wind. See **WIND**.] —**win'now•er** *n.*

wrought (rôt) *v.* A past tense and a past participle of **work**. ♦ *adj.* **1.** Put together; created: *a carefully wrought plan*. **2.** Shaped by hammering with tools. Used chiefly of metals or metalwork. **3.** Made delicately or elaborately. [ME *wroght* < OE *geworht*, p. part. of *wyrcan*, to work. See **werg-** in App.]

xen•o•phobe (zĕn'ə-fōb', zĕ'nə-) *n.* A person unduly fearful or contemptuous of that which is foreign, esp. of strangers or foreign peoples. —**xen'o•pho•bi•a** *n.* —**xen'o•pho•bic** *adj.*

yeo•man (yō'mən) *n.* **1a.** An attendant, servant, or lesser official in a royal or noble household. **b.** A yeoman of the guard. **2.** A petty officer performing chiefly clerical duties in the US Navy. **3.** An assistant or other subordinate, as of a sheriff. **4.** A diligent, dependable worker. **5.** A farmer who cultivates his own land, esp. a member of a former class of small freeholders in England. [ME *yoman*, perh. < OE **gĕaman* < O Frisian *gāman*, villager: *gā*, region, district, *man*, man. See **man-** in App.]

zig•gu•rat (zīg'ə-răt') *n.* A temple tower of the ancient Assyrians and Babylonians, having the form of a terraced pyramid of successively receding stories. [Akkadian *ziqurratu*, temple tower < *zaqāru*, to build high.]

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